THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e). The World Health Organisation had agreed to provide Technical assistance estimated as US $ 1.5 million for the AIDS Prevention and Control programme currently under implementation throughout the country, over a period of five year (1992-97). The World Health Organisation, under this assistance, provides National and international consultancy, equipment and material for implementation of the programme.

(f) The occurrence of Toxoplasma in Mumbai is more frequent than in any other part of the country The data relating to other countries the world over is not available for comparison.

(g) The toxoplasma is one of the opportunistic infections of HIV/AIDS. For the prevention and Control AIDS, a comprehensive programme is currently being implemented throughout the country including Mumbai.

Relations with South-East Asian Countries

1375. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to strengthen further the relations with South-East Asian countries during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, countries-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details country-wise are attached in the given statement.

STATEMENT

Regional

At the regional level, India is currently a Full Dialogue Partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and has been invited to participate in the deliberations of the ASEAN Regional Forum which was created to discuss peace and security related issues in the region. EAM is currently in Jakarta to attend the meetings connected with the ASEAN and ARF.

Singapore

1. The then PM Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Singapore in Setptember 1994. During the visit, 12 corporate agreements and an MoU on Foreign Office Consultations were signed. A business delegation also visited Singapore during his visit.

2. PM Goh Chok Tong of Singapore visited Calcutta in January 1995 to attend the centenary celebrations of Confederation of Indian Industries (CCI). During his visit, he also had useful bilateral meetings with PM Rao. An agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology was signed.

3. At the invitation of Prime Minister Rao, Senior Minister and former PM of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew visited India in January 1996.

4. Singapore has emerged as the 4th largest investor in India in 1995 according to FDI approvals. (Source : (SIA)

5. Projects in the pipeline involving Singapore comapnies include the Bangalore information Technology Park, Bangalore International Airport project etc.

6. Singapore Government had taken the initiative in holding the first-ever Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) from June 19-21, 1996 bringing together Indian and Indian origin business people from across the globe. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, visited Singapore from June 19-20 and delivered the keynote address at the GIEC. During the visit, he also meet the Singapore Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Information Minister.

7. An Exhibition titled "Alamkara - 5000 years of India" was jointly inaugurated by the HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh and BG George Yeo, the Singapore Cultural Minister in July 1994. An executive programme for the years 1996-98 for cooperation in the field of Arts, Culture & Archives is under consideration.

Malaysia

1. The then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Kuala Lumpur in August 1995. This visit gave a fresh impetus to bilateral economic relations. A 25-member business delegation accompanied the Prime Minister. Several MoUs and Agreements were signed and new areas of bilateral cooperation identified.

2. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia has been recently awarded the Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1994.

3. Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz visited India in April 1995 for bilateral consultations and to identify new areas of cooperation.

4. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs visited Kuala Lumpur in May 1996 for bilateral consultations during which he called on Foreign Ministe Badawi.

5. Commerce Secretary visited Malaysia during March 1996. Apart from meeting Malaysia's business community, he delivered the keynote address in a seminar jointly organised by FICCI and its Malaysian counterpart.

Thailand

1. H.E. Banharn Silpa-archa, prime Minister of Thailand will pay an official visit in Septemebr this year.

2. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand is likely to visit Union Territory of A&N in December 1996.

3. A Joint Commission exists between the two countries and the last meeting was held in Bangkok in January 1996 when then EAM visited Thailand.

4. Bilateral negotiations are scheduled to be held from July 31 to August 2, 1996 for the conclusion of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA).

5. The first round of negtiations to conclude an extradition treaty was held in Bangkok in November 1995. The second round is likely to take place in September this year.

6. India has taken part in the ongoing celebrations in Thailand for the Golden Jubilee of the accession of the Throne of His Majesty the King of Thailand in the form of a Festival of India which will culminate in early 1997 with the holding of an exhibition of Holy Relics of Lord Buddha.

7. India and Thailand have an MoU on Cooperation between ICCR and International Studies Centre of Thailand (ISCT). Under this MoU, an Indo-Thai colloquium was held in March 1996 in New Delhi.

8. Bilateral Cooperation in science and technology is in the form of a collaboration programme between CSIR and Thailand Institute of Scientific & Technological Research (TISTR). Electronics Design Laboratory (EDL) was set up at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok with GOI assistance.

9. The Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand, led an eight-member delegation of MPs to India from January 31-February 7,1996. The delegation had a useful meeting with the Election Commission of India.

Brunei

1. India and Brunei have established air links with the inaugural flight of Royal Brunei Airlines linking Bander Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei with Calcutta in November 1995.

2. The two countries have a Joint Committee at senior officials level which has met twice in the last two years to undertake a comprehensive review of bilateral relations. The first meeting took place during the visit of the Bruneian Permanent Secretary in their Foreign Ministry in February 1995. The second meeting took place during the visit of Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs in May 1996.

3. Brunei has allowed India to set-up a mobile Telemetry, Tracking and Telecommand Station to monitor the performance of GSLV.

4. A visit by the Director, Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) is being planned to facilitate Brunei's investments in India.

5. Smt. Sukhbans Kaur, then Minister of State for Tourism visited Brunei in October 1995. The visit was planned in the context of Brunei India Tourism Promotion festivals.

Philippines

1. There is a pending invitation to President Ramos from PM to visit India. Dates are being worked out.

2. A Buyer-Seller Meet was organised in Manila in April 1996 which was attended by over 60 representatives of companies and business establishments.

3. A Joint Business Council exists between the two countries, last meeting held in Manila in October 1995, and has targeted increasing bilateral trade to US$ 500 million by 1998.

4. Technical Cooperation : Under Colombo Plan, 43 slots have been allotted to the Philippines for the financial year 1996-97. This is the highest number of allotment so far given to the Philippines. During 1995-96, 52 nominations were received against 40 slots allotted to the Philippines.

5. Two Indian Naval Ships-Khanjar and Saryu made a goodwill visit to Manila during August 1995.

6. A Group from National Defence College led by Major General SC Mehra and consisting of 14 other cadet officers from India and other countries visited Philippines from June 19 to 24, 1995.

7. A Memorandum of Understanding on enhanced cooperation in the field of renewable energy between India and the Philippines was signed on February 26 by the Ambassador and the Philippines Energy Secretary (Minister).

8. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then External Affairs Minister met Philippine Secretary for Foreign Affairs Domingo L. Siazon Jr. at UNGA Session in New York in October, 1995.

9. A contract for the sale of 75,000 mts of rice by Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation, (MMTC), of the Government of India and the National Food authority of the Philippines has been finalised. Earlier STC had supplied 25,000 mts of rice to the Philippines in September, 1995.

Vietnam

1. Then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao visited vietnam in Septemebr, 1994. During his visit, four agreements in this field of (i) Avoidance of Double Taxation (ii) Foreign Office Consultations (iii) Consular and (iv) Defence, were signed. New areas for bilateral cooperation were identified.

2. As decided during PM's visit to Vietnam, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was established under the aegis of the Joint Commission (JC). It met in January 1995 in New Delhi and December 1995 in Hanoi. The meetings reviewed progress of cooperation in various fields and identified new areas.

3. A photographic exhibition by Binoy Behl was organised in Hanoi for a period of one month in March/ April 1995.

4. A Vietnamese Cultural Week was organised in New Delhi in early September 1995. Vietnamesse Vice Minister for cultural also visited New Delhi during the period.

5. The 7th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission was held in New Delhi in February 1996 which had detailed discussions on various areas of cooperation between India and Vietnam.

6. A fresh loan of Rs. 900 million on soft terms was extended to Vietnam during the 7th India-Vietnam Joint Coimmission Meeting to encourage export of project related equipment/machinery.

7. A Multipurpose Small Industries Training Centre was set up in Hanoi under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores in August, 1995 which imparts training in six trades.

8. We have also offered to supply textile machinery worth Rs. 1.6 crores for training purposes under ITEC Programme. The despatch of the machinery is under process.

9. During 1995, training slots for Vietnamese under ITEC Programme have been increased to 100 and they have been utilized quite satisfactorily.

10. Scholarships under Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for long-term studies have also been increased from 14 to 20 in 1995. A special arrangement was made to admit one Vietnamese national in the Film and Television Institute, Pune.

11. An MOU in the field of Mining was also signed April, 1995.

12. A new agreement for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology has been signed with Vietnam in February, 1996.

13. An MOU on cooperation in the field of Health and Traditional Medicine was also signed in February, 1996.

Indonesia

1. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister met President Soeharto at the 11th NAM Summit at Cartagena, Colombia in October, 1995.

2. Mr. Abdul Latief, Manpower Minister of Indonesia visited New Delhi in January, 1995 to attend the Labour Conference.

3. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister visited Indonesia to attend NAM Coordinating Bureau Meeting at Bandung in April, 1995.

4. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister met Indonesian foreign Minister Ali Alatas at UNGA Session in New York in October, 1995.

5. Two Indian Naval ships INS SARYU and INS KHANJAR took part in the international fleet review organised by Indonesia as part of "Sail Indonesia-95" to commemorate 50th Anniversary of Indonesian Independence.

6. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre in Jakarta organised many events in 1995 including a talk by Dr. Sunil Kothari, lecture by Dr. Baladas Ghosal, participation in exhibition on contemporary art, performance of 17-member dance troupe of Ms. Chandralekha, participation of Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan in seminar on "Islam and Global Community" in November, 1995, visit of dance troupe of Smt. Usha Venkateshwaran and visit of a 12-member Kathak dance troupe of Mrs. Kumudini Lakhia.

7. An exclusive Indian trade exhibition was organised in March, 1996 in Jakarata in which 65 Indian companies participated.

8. A meeting of the Joint Business Council (JBC) was also held during the exhibition and an office of the FICCI was also opened in Jakarta.

9. Many other visits at Ministerial and official level were also undertaken.

Laos

1. Foreign Minister of Laos visited India in August, 1994 when two agreements i.e. a Cultural Agreement and an MOU on Economic and Technical Cooperation were signed.

2. In November, 1995 we received two important delegations from Laos. One was led by the Laotian Agriculture Minister and the other one was a Defence delegation.

3. In January, 1996 Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister visited Laos. First Cultural Exchange programme (CEP) between India and Laos was signed during the visit.

4. We contributed a sum of US$ 30,000 towards flood relief fund of Laos in September, 1995.

5. In May, 1996, India delivered a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tons of rice worth Rs. 1.26 crores to Laos to help overcome its food shortage.

6. We have sent two teachers at our cost to teach English to the Lao Army officers.

Cambodia

1. First Prime Minister of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh Visited India from 28 January to 01 February, 1996. During the visit a Cultural Agreement with Cambodia was siigned.

2. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then External Affairs Minister visited Cambodia in January, 1996. During the visit an MOU on Economic and Technical Cooperation with Cambodia was signed.

3. India gifted a consignment of 2,000 Metric Tons of rice at a cost of US$ 480,000.

4. The number of ITEC slots for training of Cambodian nationals has been increased from 15 to 20 in 1995.

5. We have also extended the term for one year of one Indian doctor deputed to Cambodia under India's ITEC Programme.

Setting up a Training Institute

1376. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposal for setting up of a training institute for personnels working in the field of Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto with the details of funds provided, if any?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A project titled "Kerala Marine Engineering Institute" Thevara, Kochi was submitted to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) by the Government of Kerala in 1995.

(b) The Institute is proposed to be set up as a Maritime Autonomous Society of Water Transport Deptt., Government of Kerala. Its objective is to impart theoretical and practical trainng to fresh candidates and present crew of Marine Inland vessels, harbour, crafts, fishing trawlers, dredgers, barges etc. and grant diploma/ certificates for Maritime trades. The Government of Kerala has sought financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 291.50 lakhs from the IWAI for setting up of the institute and its operation for the first three years viz; 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(c) The proposal of the Government of Kerala is being examined alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments. In the Annual Plan 1996-97, under central schemes for IWT sector, a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs has been made for the purpose of setting up crew training centres.

[Translation]

Ahir Regiment

1377. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Ahir Regiment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Technical/Management Institutes in Maharashtra

1378. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good number of proposals are pending with the Government for setting up new Technical/Management Institutes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for their pending clearance; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). Under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act the Council is empowered to grant permission to start technical institutions and for introduction of new courses for which the Council has framed Regulations laying down, inter alia, the mechanism for this purpose. Out of 166 proposals received from the State of Maharashtra for starting 108 institutions in Engineering & Technology and 58 institutions of Management the Council has already approved 16 institutions in Engineering & Technology so far.

Submergence of KUB Project

1379. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people likely to be affected due to submergence by Krishna Upper Bank project;

(b) whether necessary steps have been taken to help those affected people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) 1,26,574 people are likely to be affected due to submergence by Narayanpur Dam and Almati Dam of Upper Krishna Project Stage-I. The Project is receiving financial assistance from the World Bank.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to develop 105 resettlement colonies for oustees of Narayanpur Dam and Almati Dam of Upper Krishna Project

Stage-I. The progress achieved till March, 1996 is as under :-

(i)	Resettlement colonies	60 Nos.
(ii)	Open Wells	52 Nos.